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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 057312
P 152150Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6672

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3405

STADIS//////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EIND, BL
SUBJ: GULF OIL

REF: STATE 113025

1. DONNELLY ACCOMPANIED BY CARLOS DORADO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AT 2:45 P.M., MAY 15, SAYING HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO, DONNELLY HANDED TO AMB COPY OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT BANZER FROM B.R. DORSEY. TEXT PROVIDED IN FOLLOWING PARA.

2. "14 DE MAYO DE 1975.
"EXCELENTISIMO SENOR PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE BOLIVIA
GENERAL HUGO BANZER SUAREZ
PALACIO DE GOBIERNO
LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
"SU EXCELENCIA:
"EN REPRESENTACION DE GULF OIL CORPORATION, APROVECHO ESTA OPORTUNIDAD PARA CONFIRMARLE LA INFORMACION TRANSMITIDA A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA POR EL SR. CARLOS DORADO CHOPITEA, REPRESENTANTE DE GULF EN BOLIVIA, EN SU CARTA DE FECHA 9 DE MAYO DE 1975, Y PARA ADEMAS HACERLE CONOCER INFORMACION SUPLEMENTARIA QUE HA EMERGIDO HASTA EL MOMENTO COMO RESULTADO DE NUESTRAS INVESTIGACIONES, QUE SE ENCUENTRAN EN PLENO DESARROLLO.
"DESEO CITARLE TRES INSTANCIAS DE CONTRIBUCIONES POLITICAS QUE PARACEN SER APLICABLES AL CASO:
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"LA PRIMERA INSTANCIA SE TRATA DEL ALQUILER Y COMPRA SUB-

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SECUENTE DE UN HELICOPTERO EN EL ANO 1966 PARA EL GENERAL RENE BARRIENTOS. DURANTE ESE ANO, SE NOS URGIO QUE LE FACILITARAMOS UN HELICOPTERO PARA SU USO. ACCEDIMOS AL PEDIDO Y DURANTE UN CORTO PERIODO DE TIEMPO EL ALQUILER DEL HELICOPTERO FUE PAGADO POR NUESTRA COMPANIA. AL TERMINO DEL CONTRATO DE ARRENDAMIENTO, EL GENERAL BARRIENTOS, Y ELEGIDO PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA, URGIO FUERTEMENTE QUE GULF LE PROVERRA EL HELICOPTERO EN FORMA PERMANENTE. FUE ENTONCES QUE NUESTRA COMPANIA LLEVO A CABO ARREGLOS CON LOS FABRICANTES DEL HELICOPTERO POR MEDIO DE LOS CUALES EL HELICOPTERO ARRENDADO FUE ADQUIRIDO PARA EL GENERAL BARRIENTOS. LA CANTIDAD INVOLUCRADA FUE APROXIMADEMENTE U.S. $110,000 QUE INCLUYO LOS ALQUILERES Y EL PRECIO DE COMPRA.

"ADICIONALEMENTE HUBIERON DOS PAGOS, EL PRIMERO APARENTE-MENTE DE US$240,000 Y EL SEGUNDO DE US$110,000. AL PRESENTE, CIERTOS INDICIOS INDICAN QUE VARIOUS REPRESENTANTES DEL PARTIDO POLITICO DEL GENERAL BARRIENTOS PODRIAN HABER SIDO PARTICIPES; SIN EMBARGO NO ESTAREMOS SEGUROS DE ESTE HECHO HASTA QUE SE FINALICEN LAS INVESTIGACIONES QUE ESTAN SIENDO DESARROLLADAS POR UN COMITE INVESTIGADOR NOMBRADO POR EL DIRECTORIO DE GULF OIL CORPORATIONY APROBADO POR EL GOBIERNO DE LOS E.E.U.U. DE AMERICA.

"DESEO ASEGURAR A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA QUE LOS ESFUERZOS DE GULF Y DEL COMITE INVESTIGADOR PARA ACLARAR ESTA SITUACION SERAN COMPLETOS. TAN PRONTO QUE ESTOS ESFUERZOS PRODUZAN DATOS MAS DEFINITIVOS, ME PERMITIRE REMITIRLE INFORMACION ADICIONAL.

"REITERO A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA LAS SEGURIDADES DE MI MAS ALTA CONSIDERACION."

B.R. DORSEY

3. DONNELLY SAID THAT THE "COMITE INVESTIGADOR" MENTIONED IN LETTER IS KNOWN AS MC CLOY COMMISSION AND WAS SET UP AT REQUEST OF SEC AND UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT OF WASHINGTON. HE SAID COMMISSION HAS 90 DAY PERIOD PLUS ADDITIONAL 30 DAY PERIOD ALL BEGINNING MARCH 11 TO COMPLETE ITS RESEARCH. AS DONNELLY DESCRIBED IT, MAIN THRUST OF RESEARCH IS TO FULLY ACCOUNT FOR US$ 10.3 MILLION GULF "SLUSH FUND." SAID COMMISSION'S WORK WAS FAR FROM DONE. THEREFORE, GULF STILL NOT IN POSITION TO DESCRIBE FULLY US$ 110,000 AND US$240,000 PAYMENTS MENTIONED IN FIFTH PARA OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTER. NOTED THAT INDICATIONS SOME TRANSACTIONS APPEARED IN ACCOUNTS MUCH LATER THAN DATE ORIGINAL PAYMENT APPARENTLY MADE, BUT INVESTIGATIONS HAS NOT PROGRESSED FAR ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH DATES OF ORIGINAL PAYMENTS.

4. DONNELLY STATED GULF BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN "SLOPPY" IN COMMUNICATING WITH BANZER GOVERNMENT ABOUT CURRENT PROBLEMS AND NOW WISHED COMMUNICATE IN TIMELY MANNER TO PRESIDENT INFOR-

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MATION GULF FELT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE OBLIGED TO REVEAL TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MAY 16. LATER, DONNELLY INDICATED INFO CONTAINED IN LETTER WAS PART OF PREPARED STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY BY DORSEY TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

5. DONNELLY SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE HIS GULF OFFICES TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN SITUATION OR CHANGE IN GULF ESTIMATES OF FUTURE SITUATION (SPECIFICALLY WHETHER TWO PAYMENTS MENTIONED PARA 5 OF LETTER COULD BE MORE FULLY IDENTIFIED) BEFORE HANDING LETTER TO BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS. DONNELLY STATED FLATLY THAT THERE WERE NO PAYMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH GULF SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. CARLOS DORADO ASKED AMBASSADOR WHAT HE THOUGHT GOB REACTION TO LETTER MIGHT BE. AMBASSADOR SAID WAS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE. LATER, WHEN DORADO STATED GOB WOULD BE OBLIGED TO MAKE LETTER PUBLIC ECONOFF SAID THAT IF NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED LETTER, EDITORS AND SOME OFFICIALS PROBABLY WOULD CHARGE GULF WITH PLAYING "CAT AND MOUSE" AS THEY HAD FOLLOWING EARLIER LETTER.

7. DORADO AND DONNELLY THEN ENTERED INTO DISCUSSION ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF DELIVERING LETTER WITH DORADO TAKING POSITION THAT DELIVERY OF LETTER WAS TANTAMOUNT TO PUTTING BOMB ON PRESIDENT'S DESK AS HE WOULD THEN BE SOURCE OF BAD NEWS THAT DEFUNCT PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS, WHO NOW NATIONAL HERO AND CONSIDERED ANTECEDENT BANZER GOVERNMENT, HAD TAKEN GULF PAYMENTS. DORADO ARGUED THAT WOULD BE BETTER IF INFO ARRIVED VIA PRESS AND GOB COULD THAN REACT BY ASKING FOR MORE COMPLETE INFO. DONNELLY SAID PRESIDENT WOULD BE FREE TO SIT ON LETTER FOR SEVERAL HOURS UNTIL PRESS SERVICE REPORTS MADE IF HE SO CHOSE BUT THAT HE, DONNELLY, WOULD NOT OFFER SUCH ADVICE TO THE PRESIDENT. NEITHER AMBASSADOR NOR ECONOFF OFFERED ANY COMMENT.
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8. DONNELLY SAID HE WANTED TO BE AVAILABLE TO EXPLAIN AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE TO PRESIDENT GULF'S POSITION AND REASON WHY COULD NOT MAKE CLEARER STATEMENT. PLAN WAS FOR DORADO TO CALL MIN ENERGY/HYDROCARBONS WITH NEWS THAT DONNELLY HERE WITH OFFICIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR PRESIDENT.

9. AT 4:30 P.M. DONNELLY PHONED ECONOFF TO STATE THAT DORADO HAD CALLED MINISTER AND THAT LATTER WAS OBVIOUSLY FRIGHTENED BY POSSIBILITIES PRESENTED BY STATEMENT AND DONNELLY'S PRESENCE. MINISTER WAS IN PROCESS TALKING TO "HIS SUPERIOR" AND DORADO'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT DONNELLY MIGHT WELL BE ASKED TO QUIETLY LEAVE LA PAZ. DONNELLY ASKED THAT LETTER BE KEPT ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.
STEDMAN

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